infrastructural facilities in other districts where the growth centres are not at present coming up. That is what the Government is trying to do.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, Mr. Pramod Mahajan.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, this is the fourth Government which is working on the 'growth centre' concept. So, this 'growth centre' concept has nothing to do with the present World Bank proposals.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Why don't you tell your friends?

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : But, due to the present Industrial Policy....

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Sir, he is speaking on behalf of his friends... *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA : He is a supporter of the World Bank.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : I am neither a supporter of the World Bank for the KGB ....*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let us remain within the purview of the main question ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, what I am saying is that this 'growth centre' concept is pretty old, six or seven years old, and has been there under four Governments....*(Interruptions)*....

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is your question?

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : I am coming to my question, Sir.

Due to the New Industrial Policy, no industry now needs a licence, and when he does not need a licence, naturally, an industrialist will go wherever he wants. Naturally, he will go to that centre which already has sufficient growth. So, in respect of the backward areas, the licensing policy was an instrument to send an industry to the backward areas. So, I would like to know from the honourable Minister how this lacuna in the New Industrial Policy is going to be removed because the old Policy helped us in giving licence for an industry in the backward areas and developing those areas. I would like to know how this 'growth centre' concept can be used an instrument to have development in the backward areas.

SHRI P.J. KURIEN : Sir, the honourable Member may be knowing that in spite of the licensing policy, most of the backward areas have remained backward. It is not as if you can, with your licensing policy, direct industries to the backward areas. It did not happen and that is the reality. But, for the information of the honourable Member, Sir, I would like to say that out of the 64 growth centres sanctioned, 51 are in the notified backward areas. The honourble Prime Minister has already said about three in Andhra Pradesh in the backward areas. So, 80 per cent of these growth centres are in the backward areas and 51 districts were selected in the backward areas where infrastructure will be provided. Naturally, when there is the infrastructure industries have to go there irrespective of whether there is licensing or there is no licensing.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question No. 382.

**Demand and supply of paper and newsprint**

*382. DR. SANJAYA SINH:†
SHRI P. UPENDRA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated gap between demand and supply of paper and newsprint in the country at present ; and

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to bridge the gap?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P.J. KURIEN) : (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**Statement**

(a) The country is self sufficient in respect of ordinary varieties of paper. The estimated gap in respect of newsprint is around 3 lakh tonnes.

(b)(i) Paper units, based on use of minimum 75% pulp from bagasse, agricultural residues and other non-conventional raw materials, have been exempted from Industrial Licensing.

(ii) Manufacture of writing and printing paper and uncoated draft paper containing not less than 75%

† The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Dr. Sanjaya Singh.

by weight of pulp made morf jute including (jute waste), mesta or bagasse of mixture thereof mixture of two or more of the pulps of the afore-mentioned materials is exempted from excise duty.

(iii) The Paper and Paper Board Industry, based on agricultural residues, has been brought under the scheme of Minimum Economic Capacity, which has been fixed at 33000 TPA.

DR. SANJAYA SINH : Sir, the honourable Minister has given in a general way his response and, on that basis, I would like to put a few supplementaries and I will appreciate if he can give satisfactory replies.

Sir, I would like to know whether it is a act that the Government of India in order to help the foreign companies dump their newsprint in India, has imposed a heavy duty on capital goods that is, 40 to 45 per cent, on boards 120 per cent, on raw materials like pulp 10 per cent and on waste paper 20 per cent while the foreign producers are allowed to send their products duty-free. I would like to know whether, due to this policy, the domestic producers are forced to pile up their stocks and the country is forced to pay in foreign exchange to these foreign companies. I want to know whether it is also a fact that as a result, though a number of letters of intent have been issued, yet none has been implemented so far. I further want to know whether it is also a fact that whereas the local producers have to pay a higher royalty for wood, exorbitant price for electric power and heavy railway freight for coal, the foreigners, without any such handicap, are allowed to sell their products in India.

SHRI P. J. KURIEN : Sir, first of all I would like to inform the hon. Member that it is not correct to say that the Indian newsprint factories are finding it difficult to sell their products because there is no price control. It is also not true that much of the quantities are lying there unsold. And with regard to import of raw materials and intermediaries and capital goods without duty, well, I think, the hon. Member is advocating for a total duty-free import. That is not the intention at present. We have to strike a balance. Sir, some of the raw materials used in a particular item may be used in another item also and, therefore, you cannot just say that for newsprint all these raw materials are there, and they are duty-free, and for some other items, it should be there. The same material will be used in different areas for different finished products. As far as newsprint is concerned, because we felt that there should be no tax on knowledge—I hope the hon. Member will agree that there should be no tax on knowledge—we thought that the newsprint, as announced in the policy, should be made available at the cheapest possible price. This is for better dissemination of knowledge, and we would not like to have any tax on this. That is why there is no duty on newsprint. And with regard to intermediaries and raw materials, some raw materials used for newsprint will be used elsewhere also. However, the hon. Member's suggestion will be examined.

DR. SANJAYA SINH : Sir, my second supplementary is whether it is a fact that all our leading paper and news print manufacturers are going outside the country to invest on paper production rather than expand here due to our unrealistic policy of afforestation. I would also like to know whether it is also a fact that even barren forest lands without any plantation are being made available to this industry to take up intensive plantation to augment their raw material supply. I further want to know whether the Government proposes to allow the industry to have captive plantation as the Government have no resources or capacity to plant trees in these barren areas in the foreseeable furture.

SHRI P.J. KURIEN : Sir, as you are aware, there is a forest policy of the Government of India which everybody welcomes also. We cannot allow the unscrupulous felling of trees. And, therefore, there should be some restriction on that. To that extent, there is non-availability of raw materials. That is why we are helping to get raw material by imports. Now, with regard to allowing captive plantation for use by newsprint fatories, that suggestion is under the consideration of the Government. And we have also had a discussion with the Environment Ministry and as and when a policy is finalised, can say anything about that.

SHRI P. UPENDRA : Sir, the Minister's statement does not give the extent of problem the country is likely to face in the next few years. The demand for paper is increasing by 6 to 7 per cent every year, and by 1995-96, it is going to rise to 28 6 lakh tonnes, and by the turn of century to about 40 lakh tonnes. And in a seminar recently held by the Indian Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation, it was estimated that by the turn of the century, the gap will be as much as 14 lakh tonnes. And I don't think the Government is preparing to meet that shortage. I would like to ask and one question has already been put by Mr. Sanjaya Sinh as to

whether the paper units will be allowed to set up captive plantation to ensure regular supply of wood. For that, the Minister gave a very vague answer. The second raw materials is bagasse. I would like to know whether the sugar mills are being encouraged to increase generation of bagasse needed by the paper industry, and whether the Government is encouraging deinking of the plants, because in most of the advanced countries, they are setting up deinking plants so that from waste paper they can produce paper again. I want to know whether they are encouraging it.

Lastly I would like to know whether the Minister is thinking of giving the same relief that is being given to the imported newsprint in respect of customs duty. Of course it is for the Finance Minister, but whether he is pleading for abolition of customs duty on raw materials like pulp and waste paper.

SHRI P.J. KURIEN : Government is aware of the projected requirements upto 2000 A.D. That is why, before there is a shortage of wood-based raw material Government is encuraging the use of' other raw materials like bagasse as the hon. Member just mentioned. We are encouraging the use of bagasse specially as he mentioned. We would like to encourage sugar complexes where bagasse can also be used for manufacture of news print and paper. Other raw materials are also agricultural residue, like the rice straw, wheat straw and also jute residue. All these are being encouraged by delicensing and by giving concession in exicse duty. If at least 75% pulp from these non-conventional raw materials is used, no licence is needed, and we also give excise relief. So, Government's intention is to reduce dependence on raw materials which are wood-based and encourage use of non-conventional raw materials like bagasse and agricultural residue. With regard to waste paper and deinking, yes, Government is encouraging deinking . We have the technology already and we are encouraging that. We would like to encourage deinking units also.

SHRI P. UPENDRA : Sir, he did not answer my last point, whether he is pleading for giving relief in customs duty in respect of the raw materials used by paper industry.

SHRI P.J. KURIEN : Yes, that is a suggestion.

SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU : My supplementary arises out of the reply given by the hon. Minister in part (a)...

MR. CHAIRMAN : You put your supplementary.

SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU : My supplementary arises out of part (a) where he has said that estimated gap of newsprint is around 3 lakh tonnes. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether, while calculating the gap, he has taken into account of the element of fake demand, and secondly, what is the rationale of calculating the gap, which according to his reply, is 3 lakh tonnes. I would like to know the rationale of calculation of the demand.

SHRI P.J. KURIEN : We have the picture of demand and actual use over the years, and for the benefit of the hon. Members, I would like to give the figures here. For the year 1989-90, the demand was 5.6 lakh tonnes and the gap was 2.96 lakh tonnes; in 1990-91, the demand was 5.65 lakh tonnes and the gap was 2.86 lakh tonnes; in 1991-92, the demand was 6.25 lakh tonnes and the gap was 3.3 lakh tonnes. So, on this basis, from the previous experience, we arrive at the projections of gap and demand upto 2000 A.D. We also take into account other factors.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : My question is very specific regarding the newsprint. The hon. Minister in his reply said that estimated gap in respect of newsprint is around 3 lakh tonnes. Even though that is the estimated gap, the present production of newsprint has badly affected the newspaper industry. The Minister said that knowledge should not be taxed. But what is happening is, it is taxed in a different way. The newsprint that we produce is of a very low quality, substandard. Even Bangladesh produces better newsprint. At the same time, the newspapers are asked to purchase a particular percentage of indigenous newsprint, thereby they are are compelled to pay a higher price for bad quality. The hon. Minister of Information and Broadcasting is here. The Indian Newspaper Society has made an appeal to the Government to rescind the Newsprint Control Order of 1962. In that case, the newspapers can import newsprint according to their need. In such a situation, I would like to now from the hon. Minister as to what he is going to do. What will happen to the already existing newsprint capacity? There is no use saying that we are short of three lakh tonnes. Our newsprint is of very low quality and we are asked to pay a higher price for it. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, what methods the Government is adopting, or, going to adopt, to improve the quality and reduce the price, commensurate with the international price.

SHRI P. J. KURIEN . Sir first of all it is not correct to say that we are producing newsprint of inferior quality. It is not correct.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : I am very sorry. This is an admitted fact. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : It is a fact that the quality is bad. Our newspapers want to use the indigenous newsprint, but they are prevented from doing so because of the quality problem. It should be taken care of. It should be dealt with.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : Why do you want to hide the fact ? (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is a user.

SHRI P.J. KURIEN : Sir, even in Tamil Nadu, there is a unit which is producing newsprint of the required quality.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : But we have to pay a higher price. The quality is also inferior, compared to the imported newsprint. This is an admitted fact. Why do you want to hide it?

SHRI P.J. KURIEN : I agree in regard to the price. If you say that the price is higher, it is a different matter. But when you say that the indigenous newsprint is of inferior quality, I do not agree. The hon. Member referred to another country and said that our newsprint is even inferior in quality compared with that. This is not so. (*Interruptions*) No. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : I think the hon. Minister of Information and Broadcasting will agree with me. This is an admitted fact. All the Press persons know about it. Why do you want to hide the fact ? You accept the fact and try to improve the quality.

SHRI P.J. KURIEN : I agree with the hon. Member's point that there is need to increase the productivity of the indigenous newsprint and reduce the price. The Government is doing that. That is why the Government has given excise duty concession to the newsprint industry.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : What about improving the quality of the NEPA newsprint. What are you going to do? (*Interruptions*) You have to be specific.

SHRI P.J. KURIEN : Sir, this way it cannot go on. I would again like repeat, the indigenous newsprint is not of inferior quality. You cannot denigrate it. I do not agree. That is my point. You cannot do that. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : You need not be patriotic in this. I am also a patriot. But you have to admit what is a fact. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL *alias* MEEM AFZAL : Sir, the hon. Minister does not know anything about newsprint. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Both of you are entitled to your opinion. Proceed further.

SHRI P.J. KURIEN : Sir, I do agree that the price of the indigenous newsprint is not commensurate with the international price. This aspect the Government is considering.

**श्री राघव जी** : सभापति जी, प्रश्न का जो 'क' भाग है उसमें यह कहा गया है कि साधारण पेपर की आत्म-निर्भरता है, केवल न्यूजप्रिंट में तीन लाख टन की कमी है, लेकिन भाग "ख" जो है, उसमे तीन उपाय बताये गये हैं। यह तीनों उपाय साधारण पेपर के उत्पादन बढ़ाने से संबंध रखते हैं। इसमें न्यूजप्रिंट के उत्पादन गैप को कम करने का कोई उपाय नही बताया गया है, जबकि पूछा गया है कि गैप कैसे कम किया जाए।

तो मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि यह न्यूजप्रिंट की कमी का– एक तो कारण क्या है, और नम्बर 2, क्या देश में जैसे गेहूं और भूसा है, या अन्य ऐसे उत्पादन हैं, उन स्थानों पर न्यूजप्रिंट के पेपर मिल लगाये जाएंगे और उनसे न्यूजप्रिंट पैदा हो सके, इसका कोई इनवेंशन किया जाएगा ?

SHRI P. J. KURIEN: I have already said that the Government is encouraging the manufacture of newprint based on non-forest-based raw material, like bagasse and agricultural residue. We have already given letter of intent for manufacture of newsprint, for a capacity of 7.94 lakh tonnes. Letter of intent has also been given to some other public units for manufacture of newsprint.

At the same time, we do not encourage wood-based raw material. That is all the difference. There is a lot of bagasse available in this county. The Government is encouraging the manufacture of newsprint with the use of bagasse which is exempt from licensing and also excise and customs duty.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is talking of wheat straw.

SHRI P. J. KURIEN: For that also there is no licence needed and it is subjected to concessional excise duty. So, the Government is encouraging that.

**मौलाना अ़ोबैदुल्ला खान आज़मी :** चेयरमैन सर, कागज़ की नाव भी तो चलाना है कठिन पैसे के दाम गिर गए, कागज़ के बढ़ गए । सर, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि...

†[مولانا عبید اللہ خاں اعظمی :

چیئرمین سر کاغذ کی ناؤ بھی تو چلانا ہے کٹھن - جیسے کے دام گر گئے- سر میں مانلیئے منتری جن سے یہ جاننا چاہتا ہوں کہ...]

**श्री सभापति :** उसका अफसोस हो रहा है आप कागज़ की नाव चलाना चाहते हैं ?

**मौलाना अ़ोबैदुल्ला खान आज़मी :** बिल्कुल अफसोस की बात है, सर, बिल्कुल अफसोस की बात है । कागज़ की तो बेपनाह जरूरत पड़ती है । कागज़ ही के जरिए... (**व्यवधान**)

†[مولانا عبید اللہ خاں اعظمی :

بالکل افسوس کی بات ہے - سر بالکل افسوس کی بات ہے - کاغذ کی تو بےپناہ ضرورت پڑتی ہے - کاغذ ہی کے ذریعے ... (مداخلت) ..]

**श्री सभापति :** यहां पर कागज़ की नाव कहा, मैंने कहा कि... (**व्यवधान**) कागज़ की नाव चलाना चाहते हैं ।

**मौलाना अ़ोबैदुल्ला खान आज़मी :** कागज़ के इतने पैसे बढ़ जायेंगे और पैसे के दाम गिर जायेंगे तो कागज़ की नाव भी चलाना बच्चों के लिए मुश्किल हो जाएगा । ... (**व्यवधान**) .. सर मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि बहुत से अखबारों ने, जो कागज़ का कोटा अखबारों ने सरकार से अलाट कराया है और इस तनासुब में उन अखबारों की इशाअ़त भी नहीं, क्या सरकार को मालूम है कि ऐसे बहुत सारे फर्जी अखबार जो दो सौ, सौ के करीब छपते हैं और कभी-कभी छपते भी नहीं हैं लेकिन यह अपने कागज़ का कोटा अखबार वाले लेकर काले बाजार में बेच देते हैं क्या सरकार ऐसे अखबारों की जांच करके कार्यवाही करने का इरादा रखती है ? अगर रखती है, तो कब तक और नहीं रखती है, तो क्यों ?

†[مولانا عبید اللہ خاں أعظمی :

کاغذ کے اتنے پیسے بڑھ جائینگے اور پیسے کے دام گر جائینگے تو کاغذ کی ناؤ بھی چلانا بچوں کیلئے مشکل ہو جائیگا ... (مداخلت)

سر میں مانلیئے منتری جی سے یہ جاننا چاہتا ہوں کہ بہت سے اخباروں نے جو کاغذ کا کوٹہ اخباروں نے سرکار سے الاٹ کرایا ہے اور اس تناسب میں ان اخباروں کی اشاعت بھی نہیں - کیا سرکار کو معلوم ہے کہ ایسے بہت سارے فرضی اخبار جو دو سو - سو کے قریب چھپتے ہیں اور کبھی کبھی چھپتے بھی نہیں ہیں لیکن یہ اپنے کاغذ کا کوٹہ اخبار والے لیکر کالے بازار میں بیچ دیتے ہیں - کیا سرکار ایسے اخباروں کی جانچ کرکے کاروائی کرنے کا ارادہ رکھتی ہے - اگر رکھتی ہے تو کب تک اور نہیں رکھتی ہے تو کیوں -]

†[Transliteration in Arabic script.]

SHRI P. J. KURIEN: Sir, that is totally the jurisdiction of the I&B Ministry. The hon. Member may put the question to the I&B Ministry.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The allotment is according to the I&B Ministry.

**श्री भूपेन्द्र सिंह मान**: सभापति जी, सारा देश इस बात से चिंतित है कि यहां कागज की कमी है। मंत्री जी ने अभी कहा कि कागज फारेस्ट बेस्ड मैटीरियल से नहीं बनाने दिया जाए इसके लिए हम सोचते हैं।

**श्री सभापति**: वुड बेस्ड।

**श्री भूपेन्द्र सिंह मान**: फारेस्ट बेस्ड। ... (**व्यवधान**)

**श्री सभापति**: पत्तियों का बनाओ तो कोई एतराज नहीं है।

**श्री भूपेन्द्र सिंह मान**: लेकिन पंजाब में युकलिप्टस एक क्राप के तौर पर किसानों ने ली और सरकार ने कहा कि युकलिप्टस लगाओ और उसके अच्छी तरह से आपको दाम मिलेंगे, उससे पेपर बनेगा, वगैरह-वगैरह, इस वक्त पंजाब के किसान पैनिक कटिंग कर रहे है फारेस्ट की जो उनका अपना है, उनकी क्राप है और सरकार उनको अपने फारेस्ट से, अपनी क्राप से पेपर बनाने की इजाजत न दे जबकि सारे देश में इस वक्त यह है कि कोई भी अपनी चीज को प्रोसैस कर सकता है, तो क्या मंत्री जी यह बताने की कोशिश करेंगे कि पंजाब के किसानों के साथ जो उनकी अपनी क्राप हैं उसको पेपर बनाने, चाहे वह किसी भाग में, चाहे को आपरेटिव में आए या कंपनी में आए किसी भी तौर पर आए, क्या उनको पेपर बनाने की इजाजत होगी? उसके साथ ही क्या यह पैनिक कटिंग जो हो रही है उसको रोकने के लिए कुछ जल्दी उपाय किए जायेंगे?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is about eucalyptus grown by Punjab cultivators.

SHRI P. J. KURIEN: We have already given letter of intent for manufacture of paper in Punjab. That has already been sanctioned. With regard to the cutting of the forest, that is the jurisdiction of the Punjab Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next Question.

## एफ० एम० बैंड में मराठी कार्यक्रम

*383. **डा० बापू कालदाते**: क्या सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि आकाशवाणी के मुंबई केन्द्र से एफ० एम० बैंड पर मराठी कार्यक्रम हफ्ते में सिर्फ आध घंटे के लिए प्रसारित होते हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इन कार्यक्रमों को इतने कम समय के लिये सीमित करने का क्या कारण है;

(ग) क्या सरकार इस बैंड के कार्यक्रमों के प्रसारण का समय बढ़ाने पर विचार कर रही है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है?

**सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (कुमारी गिरिजा व्यास)**: (क) जी, नहीं। आकाशवाणी, बम्बई के एफ० एम० चैनल से प्रसारित मराठी संगीत कार्यक्रम की कुल अवधि 2 घंटे 10 मिनट प्रति सप्ताह है।